

House Bill 943

By: Representatives Marin of the 96th, Floyd of the 99th, and Thomas of the 100th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

To amend Chapter 1 of Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to general provisions relative to professions and businesses, so as to require continuing education in cultural competency for licensure of health care professionals to address disparities in medical treatment decisions based on race, ethnicity, and gender; to provide for legislative findings; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

SECTION 1.

Chapter 1 of Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to general provisions relative to professions and businesses, is amended by adding a new Code section to the end thereof to read as follows:

"43-1-32.

(a) The General Assembly finds that there are disparities in the outcomes of health care based on race, ethnicity, and gender. The General Assembly further finds that cultural awareness and cultural competence are essential skills for providing quality health care to a diverse patient population in this state. The General Assembly declares that a public interest is served in providing quality health care to all segments of society and that this dictates the need for the cultural competency education of health care professionals in this state.

(b) The initial requirements and continuing competency requirements for licensure of physicians, podiatrists, physicians' assistants, chiropractors, dentists, dental hygienists, registered professional nurses, and licensed practical nurses pursuant to this chapter and for pharmacists pursuant to Chapter 4 of Title 26 shall include the completion of a course in cultural competency at least once every two years; provided, however, that the respective professional licensing board may in its discretion require completion of the course more frequently. The respective professional licensing boards shall approve or design such a

1 course to address the problem of disparities in medical treatment decisions based on race,
2 ethnicity, and gender. The course shall include essential skills for providing quality
3 culturally competent health care to diverse patient populations and shall be sufficient to
4 update health care providers on new research findings or national treatment guidelines
5 related to health care decisions based on race, ethnicity, and gender."

6 **SECTION 2.**

7 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.